

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: WORLD ESKIMO-INDIAN OLYMPICS

REF: STATE 108867

1. CONTENTS OF REFTEL PASSED IN FORM OF LETTER DATED JUNE 13 FROM POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO DEPUTY CHIEF USA DIVISION FEDOSEYEV. DURING CALL AT MFA ON OTHER BUSINESS JUNE 16, POLITICAL COUNSELOR WAS APPROACHED IN MFA CORRIDOR BY SOMEWHAT BEMUSED SOVIET OFFICIAL WHO ASKED FOR DESCRIPTION OF "EAR PULLING," "KNUCKLE HOP" AND BLANKET TOSS" AND WONDERED WHETHER WE COULD GIVE HIM PRECISE RUSSIAN TRANSLATION OF THESE TERMS. AFTER ESTABLISHING THAT OUR SOVIET SUPPLICANT WAS NOT INDULGING IN ANCIENT RUSSIAN SPORT OF "LEG-PULLING," WE WERE FORCED TO CONFESS OUR IGNORANCE OF THESE ARCAINE NORTHERN DIVERSIONS BUT PROMISED TO ASK DEPARTMENT FOR GUIDANCE AND--INDEED--HELP.

2. WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE DESCRIPTIONS AS WELL AS RUSSIAN TRANSLATION FOR THESE ESOTERIC AND INTRIGUING SPORTS. ESKIMO TERMINOLOGY WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL SINCE OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ESKIMO TONGUE SPOKEN IN CHUKOTSKIY NATIONAL REGION IS IDENTICAL WITH THAT SPOKEN IN ALASKA.

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